

Mission Committee Report for 2015 Synod in Krondal.

Dear Synod, I greet you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I greet you with Ephesians 4: 11-13 "So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and the teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we reach unity in the faith."

Thoughts on Missions:

Every congregation has been called by God. We know that we need to spread the gospel of Christ into this world. We know we have been called to make disciples. However, how quickly we forget what our true goal as a congregation is. How easy it is to find ourselves in a comfort zone, thinking only of our own interest. We, as congregations often are like a ship in a harbour not willing to go out into stormy waters. We worry about the condition of the ship and try and make the ship as comfortable as possible. We as a congregation have been called to leave our safe harbour and to go into stormy waters.

We also know how difficult it is for us to make new disciples. When last has someone come to faith through "the works of service" in your congregation? After someone comes to faith, do we have programs in place to help this person to become an active disciple of Christ? Do we allow people to **discover** their different gifts and to **live** them out in our midst? Do we know who the evangelists, teachers, prophets, pastors and apostles in our congregations are? The goal of the gifts is to equip the congregation so that they can do works of service in the community. To be able to effectively do the Mission of God we need to allow the gifts to be lived out. Do we make room for these gifts to be lived out in our congregations, so that thereby God, through deeds and words can be made known in this world?

Each congregation in our Church has been called to carry the light into this world. Each congregation will do it in different ways, but having the same goal, to live and preach the word of God. We as a Mission Committee cannot live out the calling for the congregations. We can only play a supporting role to help congregations to find their calling, and to be relevant in their task that Christ has for the church in the world, which is spreading the gospel in word and deed. The way we reach people will be different in Johannesburg compared to a Natal countryside congregation, but the goal is still the same; to reach people for our Lord and Saviour. We may have different courses and different outreach programs, but it is all about Christ. May every congregation in our Church become aware again that we have been called, not only to look after our members but to reach out in words and deeds to others in our respective communities. Jesus said **go** and make disciples....

Meetings and important decisions made:

In the last two years we had four mission committee meetings. During these meetings we met with East Rand Congregation and Church of Peace.

We also visited the outreach programs of the Eastern Circuit. There we joined a discipleship course that was presented for about thirty young Zulu Christians. It was very encouraging to see how young people came willing to a discipleship course to learn how to follow Jesus. I wish we had many more such discipleship courses in our Church. We also heard about the outreaches being done in the rural area. One large outreach is the Aids Project led by Johan Engelbrecht. What impressed us was the holistic approach where they took care of physical needs and at the same time spiritual healing is offered.

The East Rand Congregation requested support from the mission committee. They had gone through a strategic planning process. After many meetings and consultation we accepted their request to be seen as a Mission Project. To change a mind-set and to live out a new God given vision, is always a process that

takes time, sometimes years. They need our prayers as they reach out into their community. May they hear the voice of our Lord Jesus clearly in the undertaking of this big task.

We are in discussion with the Durban Parish about their future.

Other Projects supported by the mission committee:

Other congregations that are supported by the mission committee are the Church of Peace and Hillcrest.

We also support Gottfried Schiele and Eberhard Haberkorn from Trans Worlds Radio.

The Youth Pastors of St Peters by the Lake and Kempton Park are also supported.

Diaconal workshop:

In November 2014 we organised a diaconal workshop in Vanderbijlpark. Many congregations introduced and shared about their outreach projects. What stood out at this workshop was that many congregations are reaching out to the community through deeds. This workshop reminded me of our mission history. The Hermannsburg and Berlin missions build the church of Jesus Christ by showing His love in a very practical way by starting schools, hospitals, clinics etc, serving people where they had needs.

Conclusion

We thank you all for all collections and donations for the mission fund. Without your support we cannot reach out to the community (do this work of service for God). Thank you for all the ideas and support that you give to us. Let us remember that every congregation has been called to reach out and live out the mission of God. May this be true in all of our congregations.

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